

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of forming a lesion at a predetermined heart location is provided. An energy-delivering electrode is positioned proximal to the predetermined heart location; a return electrode is positioned in contact with cardiac tissue. An electrosurgical current, capable of delivering energy through the energy-delivering electrode to the predetermined heart location at a magnitude and for a duration effective to form a lesion is established. A system for treating atrial fibrillation by forming transmural lesions and a heart-positioning device including a return electrode are also provided. In one embodiment, one of the electrodes includes at least a portion that is selectively movable between a first, retracted position in which the electrode is adapted to be deployed through tissue, and a second, expanded position in which the electrode is adapted to be placed within a chamber of a heart.

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